

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

42

CONFIDENTIAL

Action

Classification

Control: 15319

EUR

Rec'd: NOVEMBER 27, 1958
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Info

FROM: BERLIN

RMR

TO: Secretary of State

SS

NO: 409, NOVEMBER 26, 6 PM (SECTION ONE OF TWO)

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SENT BONN 360, DEPARTMENT 409; REPEATED INFORMATION MOSCOW
124, PARIS 72, LONDON 59.

BONN PASS POLAD USAREUR 134.

PARIS ALSO PASS USCINCEUR THURSTON AND WEST.

REFERENCE: OURTEL 325 TO BONN, 371 TO DEPARTMENT.

BERLIN REACTION FOR PERIOD NOVEMBER 22 TO 26.

OCB

USIA

CIA

OSD

ARMY

NAVY

AIR

A. PUBLIC REACTION

SPIRITS OF POPULATION APPEAR TO HAVE RISEN FOLLOWING SOV DELAY
IN ISSUING EXPECTED DOCUMENT RE BERLIN. RELAXATION ATTRIBUTABLE
TO FEELING THAT MOSCOW MIGHT BE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS. GROWING
PUBLIC AWARENESS THAT SOV MOVE MAY BE DIRECTED PRIMARILY
AGAINST WESTERN POWERS (WHO BERLINERS CONFIDENT CAN TAKE
CARE OF THEMSELVES) MAY ALSO HAVE DISPELLED SOME PUBLIC
UNEASINESS. BELIEF THEREFORE GAINING THAT BERLIN POPULATION
MAY NOT BE IMMEDIATELY AFFECTED, ALTHOUGH LARGE PERCENTAGE
OF PEOPLE REALIZE SERIOUS LONG-RANGE IMPLICATIONS OF ANY
WEAKENING OF ALLIED POSITION.

EVIDENCE OF BUSINESS AS USUAL ATTITUDE ARE PREPARATIONS FOR
HOLIDAYS INCLUDING CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WHICH JUST GETTING
UNDERWAY. CYNICISM OF SOV AMBASSADOR SMIRNOV'S STATEMENT THAT
ALL GERMANS WILL HAVE PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS HAS INFURIATED
BERLINERS AND IS USED AS SUCCESSFUL ANTI-COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA
IN ELECTION MEETINGS WHICH REPORTEDLY BETTER ATTENDED THAN IN
PAST WEEK

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PAST WEEK. DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHETHER THIS DUE TO INTERNATIONAL SITUATION OR SIMPLY TO INCREASED CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY TWO WEEKS BEFORE POLLING DAY. SOCIALIST CAMPAIGNERS REPORT THAT MOOD OF WORKERS NOTICEABLY MORE ANTI-SOVIET AND ANTI-SED. SENATOR LIPSCHITZ TOLD THAT AT FACTORY-RALLY WORKERS CAME CLOSE TO MANHANDLING SED SPEAKER WHEN HE REPEATED CURRENT COMMIE LINE ABOUT WITHDRAWAL OF WESTERN FORCES, ALTHOUGH THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY APPLAUDED SAME SPEAKER WHEN HE MADE SUGGESTIONS ABOUT IMPROVING LABOR CONDITIONS.

ACCORDING ISOLATED REPORTS, EAST BERLIN POPULATION MORE CONCERNED AND NERVOUS THAN WEST BERLINERS ABOUT SECURITY WEST BERLIN AND MAINTENANCE OF ALLIED POSITION, BECAUSE OF STRONG FEELING THAT PRESENCE OF ALLIES ACTS AS BRAKE ON EAST GERMAN GOVERNMENT. EAST BERLINERS FEAR REGIME WILL BEAR DOWN ON THEM EVEN MORE HARSHLY IF STATUS OF BERLIN IS CHANGED.

REFUGEE STREAM NOT VISIBLY AFFECTED BY INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. REDUCTION REFUGEE ARRIVALS TO 275 DURING PAST WEEK PRIMARILY DUE TO ORDINARY SEASON DECLINE. REFUGEE CAMP AUTHORITIES FEEL THAT AS LONG AS REFUGEES NOT PREVENTED FROM COMING THEY WILL CONTINUE TO FLEE.

CONSULATE RECEIVING AVERAGE TEN TO TWENTY TELEPHONE CALLS DAILY FROM AMERICANS ASKING IF THEY SHOULD DEPART BERLIN. STANDARD ANSWER GIVEN IS THAT CONDITIONS NORMAL.

B. OFFICIAL REACTION.

WHILE ALL BERLIN OFFICIALS POINT TO GRAVITY OF SITUATION, DELAY IN KREMLIN'S MOVE SEEMS TO HAVE INCREASED THEIR CONFIDENCE, MAINLY BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THAT CURRENT RESPITE HAS ENABLED WEST TO IMPROVE ITS PLANNING AND FIRM UP ITS POSITION. OFFICIALS UNANIMOUSLY IMPORE THAT WEST MAINTAIN FIRM POSITION AND NOT TOLERATE GDR CONTROLS WHICH THEY FEEL BOUND TO LEAD TO

EVENTUAL LOSS

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EVENTUAL LOSS ALLIED POSITION IN BERLIN. SENATOR LIPSCHITZ SPECIFICALLY SOUGHT OUT MISSION OFFICER TO TELL HIM HE HAD CHANGED HIS MIND SINCE LAST DISCUSSION (SEE OURTEL 294 BONN, 341 SECSTATE) AND WAS NOW STRONGLY IN FAVOR USING FORCE AGAINST EAST GERMANS IF NECESSARY. HE ALSO EMPHATIC THAT BERLIN OFFICIALS COULD SEE THROUGH TRANSPARENT EAST GERMAN TACTICS OF ATTEMPTING TO LULL WEST BERLINERS INTO BELIEF NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THEM WHILE BEGINNING A SQUEEZE AGAINST THE ALLIED POSITION WITH THE ULTIMATE AIM OF PICKING WEST BERLIN LIKE "RIPE FRUIT."

SENATOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS KLEIN STRESSED TO MISSION OFFICERS NEED FOR FIRM RESISTANCE AT OUTSET, SAYING ALLIES SHOULD TAKE OVER ENTIRE AUTOBAHN BY FORCE (AS LONG AS NO SOVIETS MEET THEM) WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY INFORMING MOSCOW THEY REGRETTABLE FORCED TO THIS ACTION BY ABSENCE SOVIET TROOPS, BUT READY TO RETURN AUTOBAHN TO RUSSIANS AS SOON AS THEY CHOOSE TO REAPPEAR. KLEIN ADMITTED NEED FOR POSSIBLE LARGE-SCALE DEPLOYMENT ALLIED TROOPS TO CARRY OUT SUCH ACTION BUT SAID THIS BETTER ALTERNATIVE THAN LOSS OF BERLIN BY ATTRITION. KLEIN SAID SENAT. WOULD PREFER UNDERGOING NECESSARY PRIVATIONS CONNECTED WITH SUCH FORCEFUL ACTION AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE BERLIN POPULATION COULD BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND NEED FOR TIGHTENING BELT EARLIER RATHER THAN BE DOOMED LATER.

KLEIN ALSO REPORTED DISCUSSION WITH VAN SCHERPENBERG THAT AIRLIFT IN LONG RUN ENTIRELY INADEQUATE, NO MATTER HOW WELL ORGANIZED, BECAUSE IT WOULD BE INCAPABLE OF FERRYING ALL GOODS REQUIRED FOR MAINTENANCE OF BERLIN ECONOMY AND WOULD ALSO BE SUBJECT TO GER CHICANERY OF ALL KIND. THIS ONLY CONFIRMED NEED FOR MAINTAINING ROAD ACCESS. KLEIN ALSO SAID VAN SCHERPENBERG AGREED WITH HIM THAT WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR RELENTLESS PRESSURE OVER NEXT FEW YEARS. HE OFFERED HIS OWN COMMENT THAT THE LOOSE ARRANGEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH RECENTLY ARRIVED AT INTERZONAL TRADE AGREEMENT WAS EASTERN MOVE DESIGNED CREATE CONFUSION AND CONFIRM ALREADY EXISTING POPULAR IMPRESSION THAT WEST BERLINERS WILL NOT BE AFFECTED.

GUFFLER